Handloom census

1018. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the handloom sector's contribution continued to decline and its production has plummeted to 13 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the last handloom census were conducted only in 1995-96 and according to which there were 3.29 million looms in the country with 6.5 million weavers;

(c) if so,the details of looms and weavers in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) what are the reasons for not conducted census even after a decade;

(e) whetner it is affecting the policy making process and the lives and the handloom sector as a whole; and

(f) if so, how Government are planning to go ahead in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S.ELANGOVAN): (a) The estimated cloth production in handloom sector in the year 2005-06 was 6203 million sq. mtrs (Provisional) as compared to 5722 million sq. mtrs in 2004-05 and 5493 million sq. mtrs in 2003-04 which shows an annual increase of 8.41% in the year 2005-06 and 4.17% in the year 2004-05. Handloom sector contributes to 13% of the total cloth produced in the country (excluding clothes made of wool, silk and hand spun yarn).

(b) As per the last Joint Census of Handlooms & Powerlooms 1995-96, the number of looms in the country is 3.48 million and number of persons engaged in weaving and associated activities in handloom sector is 6.55 million (including 3.47 million weavers).

(c) As per the last Joint Census of Handlooms & Powerlooms 1995-96, the number of looms in Andhra Pradesh is 2,02,100 and the number of persons engaged in weaving and associated activities is 4,90,616 (including 2,28,007 weavers).

(d) to (f) The first census on Handloom was conducted during the year 1987-88 and second census was conducted in the year 1995-96. Thus, the handloom censuses had been conducted at an interval of about a decade. Proposal to conduct a fresh census is under consideration.